for the imposition of sanctions against foreign companies that make an investment of more than US $ 20 million in one year in Iran's energy sector. The Government is pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran in national interest in order to meet the energy requirements of the country. During the recent meeting between Mr. Samuel W. Bodman, US Secretary of Energy with Minister (Petroleum & Natural Gas), he was informed that India was free to pursue its energy option with any country and would act independently to pursue its interest. At present discussions are continuing amongst Iran, Pakistan and India for resolution of various contentious issues involved. Government has not made any budget allocation for the project. From Indian side, the Indian Oil Sector PSUs involved with the project, would provide necessary funds for the project. GAIL (India) Ltd. has spent Rs. 3.5 crore (Approx.) on the Technical & Financial consultants appointed for the project.

Supply of petroleum products to Nepal

3619. SHRI DEVDAS APTE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to cut supplies of petroleum products to Nepal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how much loss the Indian Oil Corporation has incurred due to political turmoil in Nepal; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to recover the loss and to continue goodwill ties with the Government of Nepal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) IOC has reported that it has not suffered any loss on account of political turmoil in Nepal.

Regulator for natural gas pricing

3620. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: